



**HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE**

**PROGRAMME SYLLABUS**

**FIRST CYCLE**

**STUDY PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK**

**Programme Code: SGSOK**

**Established by the Faculty Board 2010-09-23**

**Programme Syllabus**  
**Study Programme in Social Work,**  
**210 HE credits**

*(Socionomprogrammet)*

**This programme syllabus applies to students  
admitted to the autumn semester of 2011 or later.**

# **STUDY PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK at Högskolan i Gävle**

## **1 General Arrangement**

The programme includes 210 HE credits and is carried out as full-time studies. It consists of three course packages: Basic courses (60 HE credits), Continuation courses (90 HE credits) and Advanced courses (60 HE credits). The courses on semester 1-6 are first-cycle courses, and the courses on semester 7 are second-cycle courses.

## **2 Expected Learning Outcomes**

### **2.1. Expected Learning Outcomes according to the Higher Education Act<sup>1</sup>**

First-cycle courses and study programmes should develop the knowledge the pupils acquire on national or specially designed programmes in the upper-secondary school or equivalent knowledge. However, the government may make exceptions regarding programmes in fine, applied and performing arts.

First-cycle studies should develop the students'

- ability to make independent and critical assessments,
- the ability to independently discern, formulate and solve problems and
- to be prepared to address changes in the working life.

Within the field of the education, the students should, in addition to knowledge and skills, develop the ability to

- search and evaluate knowledge on an academic level,
- follow the knowledge development and
- exchange knowledge also with individuals without expertise in the area.

### **2.2. Expected Learning Outcomes according to The Higher Education Ordinance, appendix 2**

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall demonstrate knowledge and abilities required for independent social work on individual, group and community level.

#### *Knowledge and Understanding*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific foundation of the field and knowledge of current research and development,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interplay between the social situation, living conditions, physical and psychological health of individuals and groups, and the functional capacity in relation to social and other underlying factors,
- demonstrate knowledge of social work management and
- demonstrate knowledge about and understanding of the needs of children and the social and family relations influencing the living conditions of women and men.

#### *Skills and Abilities*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 1, section 8 (SFS 1992:1434)

- demonstrate the skills and abilities required to develop and carry out social work on different levels in society, in collaboration with the people concerned
- demonstrate the ability to apply relevant ordinances, within the social field in particular,
- demonstrate the ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify, structure, investigate and evaluate actions on individual, group and community level.

#### *Judgement and Approach*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

- demonstrate self-knowledge and empathy,
- with a comprehensive view of the human being, demonstrate the ability to make assessments based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects with specific consideration to human rights
- demonstrate a professional approach and attitude
- demonstrate an understanding of the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other occupational groups, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the own need of additional knowledge and to continuously develop the own skills.

### **3 Description of the Programme**

The main field of study of the programme is social work. The programme includes the subjects of social care, sociology, psychology, social policy and jurisprudence, which are relevant and adjacent to social work. Special focus is placed on theories of organisation and leadership. The progression of the programme takes place by the knowledge difficulty level and through the student's independence in knowledge acquisition gradually increasing. The first six the semesters of the programme consists of first-cycle courses and begins with basic courses in the first year, followed by continuation courses which constitutes 1½ years of studies. The programme ends with advanced courses the last year. During the sixth semester, the student will carry out an independent degree project. The final semester consists of second-cycle courses.

#### **Basic courses, 60 HE credits**

##### **Aims**

The basic courses provide a broad scientific basis for continued studies with emphasis on social studies and jurisprudence. The courses include e g:

- conditions for the organisation and change of the welfare state,
- theory of knowledge and research methods in social work,
- theories of the individual, group and society,
- the development of the individual during the life course,
- different perspectives in social work, with emphasis on class, gender, generation, ethnicity, disabilities and globalisation,
- the legal framework of social work,
- ethical issues in social work.

#### **Continuation courses, 90 HE credits**

The continuation courses expand upon the themes from the basic courses and include e g:

- advanced studies in jurisprudence,

- life course and vulnerability with emphasis on knowledge of the conditions of children, youths, families, elderly and disabled,
- social exclusion with emphasis on poverty, abuse, migration, homelessness and implementation of a field study,
- theories and methods in social work,
- organisation and leadership,
- placement.

### Advanced courses, 60 HE credits

The advanced courses expand upon previous studies and include e.g.:

- research methods in social work,
- independent research in the form of an academic paper, carried out under supervision,
- evaluation and evidence-based social work,
- elective second-cycle courses covering the central fields within social work. These may cover children, youths, abuse, community work, elderly and geriatric care, disabilities and the psychosocial development of people.

### 3.1 Courses within the Programme

F = First cycle

S = Second cycle

#### Year 1 (Basic courses)

Period	Course Name	HE credits	Level	Main Field of Study
	Social Work and Social Problems	15	F	Social Work
	Social Policy	7.5	F	Social Work
	Basic Theory of Science and Research Methods in Social Work	7.5	F	Social Work
	Macro-level Social Work	7.5	F	Sociology
	Micro-level Social Work	7.5	F	Psychology
	Meso-level Social Work	7.5	F	Sociology
	Basic Jurisprudence in Social Work	7.5	F	Law

#### Year 2 (Continuation courses)

Period	Course Name	HE credits	Level	Main Field of Study
	Investigation Methods and Advanced Jurisprudence in Social Work	15	F	Law
	Life Course and Vulnerability	15	F	Social Work
	Social Exclusion	15	F	Social Work

	Theories and Methods in Social Work	15	F	Social Work
<b>Year 3 (Continuation courses)</b>				
<b>Period</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>HE credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Main Field of Study</b>
	Organisational Theory and Management in Social Work	7.5	F	Social Work
	Supervised Placement	22.5	F	Social Work
<b>Advanced Courses</b>				
	Advanced Research Methods in Social Work	15	F	Social Work
	Degree Project	15	F	Social Work
<b>Year 4 (Advanced courses)</b>				
<b>Period</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>HE credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Main Field of Study</b>
	Evaluation and Evidence-based Social Work	7.5	S	Social Work
	Elective Second-cycle Courses	22.5	S	Social Work

## 3.2 Teaching and Examination

### 3.2.1 Teaching

The aim of the education is for the theoretical and practical parts of the courses to be integrated as useful knowledge and skills for every individual. In that way, the student is given the opportunity of personal professional development that is important for the future profession. The education is based on science and best practice. The education should teach the student a scientific approach which e.g. implies being able to read, understand and critically review scientific work. The student should also practice readiness for change and the ability to review the own knowledge to be able to actively participate in the development and evaluation of the professional domain.

An important element of the teaching is problem-based learning, which implies that the student practices applying and relating theoretical knowledge to the issues and problems of the social field. The starting point is often a reality-based case within the field of social work. Problem-based learning aims to integrate scientific knowledge acquisition with the working methods of social work. The students should account for relevant theories and concepts which they then apply in an independent analysis of the case. As a result, the students are motivated to take responsibility for the own learning and at the same time, function as a resource for the learning of the group, which is also a strategic proficiency in the future role as a social worker.

The teaching is given as lectures, discussions, seminars, literature studies, different forms of group work, practical exercises, project work, thesis work etc.

Placement and elements of field studies are included in the programme.

The education is carried out as a location-based full-time distance education. The students are part of permanent geographic study groups that will meet at least twice every week on the location to which they are admitted, for video-conference lectures, compulsory study group meetings, supervision etc. As support in the working process, the student groups have lecturers and one specially assigned contact teacher, both from Högskolan i Gävle, that follow the group throughout the programme. Course introductions take place in Gävle, but compulsory seminars and other teaching is also normally located in Gävle, approximately once a week. Video conference technology is used in the majority of the courses, which implies that students at other study venues do not have to be in Gävle on these occasions. The teachers in Gävle and the students communicate through the computer-based learning management system of the higher education institution.

### **3.2.2 Examination**

The education aims for diversity in the forms of examination, which as a general principle should fulfil the purposes of learning and control.

Examination occurs in all courses and may be individual and/or in groups. However, examination always includes an individual review of the student's fulfilment of the expected learning outcomes of the course.

The examination format is adapted to the expected learning outcomes of the course. For instance, written examinations, take-home examination, seminars (with or without written elements), oral tests (individual or in groups), papers, essays, project work etc. may occur.

### **3.3 Placement**

The students will participate in a supervised placement for fifteen weeks in a unit where practical social work is carried out. During the placement, the student will have contact with the occupational field in order to receive basic experience and initiate the development of an occupational identity. During the placement, the students are supervised by a professional social worker. Primarily, the student follows the supervisor's work schedule. Questions concerning placement are discussed at regular meetings with the placement coordinator and in interaction groups for the social work programme, with representatives for the potential employers, where the faculty programme director is the summoner.

### **3.4 Student Influence**

The programme has an evaluation group, which consists of the faculty programme director, head of department, course coordinators and students. The faculty programme director is the chairman. Student influence on the programme is utilised also through student representation in the academy council. Gefle Students' Union appoints student representatives. There is also a forum with representatives from the students' association, the head of academy and faculty programme directors.

### **3.5 Internationalisation**

At Högskolan i Gävle, students have the opportunity to locate part of the studies abroad, with the possibility of credit transfer. Those who want to carry out part of the study programme abroad may apply for this. The department for social work and

psychology has signed agreements or developed collaborations with other universities and higher education institutions in Scandinavia, Europe and Asia. Application should be carried out in consultation with the international office and faculty programme directors.

### **3.6 Sustainable Development**

After completed education, the student should have acquired the understanding of sustainable development needed for current and future generations to be ensured a healthy and good environment, economic and social welfare and justice.

## **4 Entry Requirements**

General entry requirements and specific entry requirements 5, i.e. the following specific entry requirements:

- Mathematics B
- Social Studies A

The grade for each of the above subjects should be at least Pass.

The specific entry requirements may also be fulfilled by those who have knowledge from other Swedish schools or educational establishments, or by those who have equivalent knowledge and experiences acquired in the country or abroad.

## **5 Grades**

Grades are given for the courses included in the programme, according to current syllabus. The grade for the course Placement in Social Work is given on a two-grade scale of Pass/Fail.

Grades for other courses are given on a seven-grade scale according to the ECTS system. Grades and Goal Attainment:

- A Excellent
- B Very Good
- C Good
- D Satisfactory
- E Sufficient
- Fx Insufficient
- F Insufficient

All examinations are based on the following criteria:

### **1. Contents**

The arguments should be well-structured, logically coherent, convincing, clear and without redundant text.

The students should demonstrate that they have read and understood the course literature and have the ability to use scientific concepts correctly.

## 2. Akribia

Quotes, footnotes and the list of references should be academically correct.

## 3. Language

The language should be academic and more or less free from grammatical error.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain the aids necessary to achieve this, such as word processing programs with spelling and grammar check, help with proof-reading and so on.

## 4. Independence

Submitted work should essentially contain the student's own processing of the course contents.

# 6 Examination Regulations

## 6.1 Title of Qualification

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work.

*Socionomexamen*

## 6.2 Qualification Criteria

A Bachelor of Science in Social Work is achieved when the student has successfully completed required courses of 210 HE credits according to the programme syllabus.

To receive a bachelor's degree certificate, the student must have successfully completed courses of at least 180 HE credits with a progressive specialisation of at least 90 HE credits in the main field of study.

## 6.3 Degree Certificates

Students who fulfil the requirements for higher education qualification as stated above should receive degree certificates on request.

# 7 Further Instructions

For admission to the Continuation courses, at least grade E on all Basic courses is required. If at least 45 HE credits of Basic courses have been successfully completed, Continuation courses may be attended if exemptions are made by the faculty programme director. For admission to the Advanced courses, at least grade E on all Basic courses and at least 75 HE credits have been successfully completed is required.

Students may transfer credits from other educations in the country or abroad to the social work programme. Application for credit transfer is tried by the head of department in consultation with the graduation office at Högskolan i Gävle, after submission by the student. Such submission shall be approved if the education or the knowledge and skills that the student has obtained are of such nature and of such an extent that they mainly correspond to the part of the programme to which they are intended to be transferred.

Transfer of courses or parts of courses should thereby be stated in the degree certificate.

## 7.1 Approved Leave from Studies

Approved leave from studies is granted after one semester of programme studies at the earliest, and for a maximum of two semesters/application occasion. Approved leave from studies is granted for the following reasons: pregnancy, statutory parental leave, disease,

military service, student union assignments, studies abroad or other specific reasons tested individually. Approved leave from studies for other reasons may be done without guaranteed admission if granted by the study guidance at Högskolan i Gävle.